

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated the Network Programme on Impact Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change during X plan period with outlay of Rs. 9.11 Crores. The research projects aim at to study the impact of climate change on agriculture systems including the livestock, fisheries horticulture and forestry at 16 locations spread across the country. At CRIDA, Hyderabad, the impact of elevated CO₂ on the growth rates of some dryland crops, viz. castor, groundnut and associated pests are being undertaken during the current plan period. The studies on castor crops indicated that the growth parameters have shown positive trend under elevated CO₂ levels at all its growth stages. However, the quantity and quality of oil contents was negatively affected.

Government of India is implementing various programmes namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), (viii) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP), (ix) National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertilizer (NPD&UB), (x) National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) etc. for Resource Conservation and also to promote efficient utilization of soil, water, land, nutrients and pesticides etc. for sustainable agricultural development in the country.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam-Kottayam Rail Line

*59. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to the rail line doubling work in the Ernakulam-Kayamkulam-Kottayam sector;

(b) whether the work has commenced on this sector;

(c) if so, the details of the work completed, so far;

(d) the reasons for the slow progress of the work; and

(e) the time by which the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) and (e) The details of ongoing doubling projects on Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam route along with the targets wherever fixed are as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Year of inclusion in budget	Estimated Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Outlay 2006-07	Status
1	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti (17.37 km)	2001-02	58.23	34.31	16	Earthwork and minor bridges completed. The work is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
2	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 kms)	2005-06	79.93	0	2	Detailed estimate has been prepared and is under process of sanction. Tenders for earthwork and bridges under process. The doubling is likely to be completed during 2008-09.
3	Chingavanam-Chengannur (26.5 kms)	2006-07	99.69	0	4.99	Detailed estimated has been prepared and is under process of sanction. Tenders for earthwork and bridges under process. The doubling is likely to be completed during 2008-09.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Chengannur-Mavelikara (12.3 km)	2003-04	33.65	4.64	10	Earthwork and minor bridges near completion. The section is targeted for completion during 2007-08
5	Mavelikara-Kayankulam (7.89 km)	2003-04	26.81	9.95	10	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress. On this section, local people are not allowing the work to proceed due to closure of one level crossing. This section has been planned for completion during 2006-07.

The section from Kuruppantara to Chingavanam (27 Kms) is not yet sanctioned.

(d) Delay in land acquisition, failure of contractors due to steep hike in prices of steel, obstruction from local people due to closure of one of the level crossings at Mavelikara and restriction/protests against earth and sand quarries in Alleppey districts have been the reasons for prolongation of the works.

MSP of Bajra and other agri-products in Rajasthan

*60. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering an increase in MSP of bajra and other agri-products in Rajasthan; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?